Numb. 157.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Saturday, May 22. to Tuesday, May 25. 1714.

The Merchants rail against the French *Trade, but Trade to* France *all the while.*
They confound their Arguments by their Practiſe.
Their Books of Accounts would contradict their Pamphlets.
The like of the Trade to Spain.
Some particular Contradictions of their Practiſe expoſed.
More promiſed in the next.

IT is obſervable, and might be uſeful to recommend the Conſideration of this Affair of French Commerce to the Thoughts of impartial Men, that the Merchants of this City at the ſame time they are exclaiming like Men of one Party againſt the French Trade, as deſtructive and ruinous to the Nation, are ſhipping Goods for France, launching into the Trade, and puſhing like Men of the other Party with all poſſible Eagerneſs into the Profits of it, as if they did it in order to make the Matter of Fact give the Lye to the Pretence, and make that Trade really Beneficial, which they themſelves condemn as deſtructive.

Is it not ſtrange that theſe Men ſhould be inſtrumental to the confounding their own Arguments, and themſelves to prove that profitable in the Practiſe which they have condemn'd as miſchievous in the Theory?

The *Mercator* thinks that thoſe Men who in every Coffee-houſe rail at the French Commerce, and tell us, We ſend nothing thither of any Value, ſhould not be the Men whoſe Books of Accounts contradict their Tongues, and who in the Coffee-houſe are one thing, and in the Cuſtom-houſe quite another thing in the very ſame Diſpute.

One would think that the Merchant, who in Publick has ſaid, and cauſed it to be printed, that the French will take none of our Manufactures, ſhould be aſham'd to ſend his Apprentice to the Cuſtom-houſe, and enter 160 Pieces of Druggets and 50 Spaniſh Cloths in a Day to the ſame Country which he had boaſted, needed none of our Goods.

But this is the Modeſty of our Age, and in eſpecial manner of the People, who the *Mercator* has to do with. Theſe are ſome of the Men who have called the *Mercator* ſo many Names, given him ſo often the LYE in ſpight of Grace and of good Manners; let any Man compare this Uſage and this Practiſe: Are theſe the Men who ought to charge any Man with Lying? Is not their whole Practiſe one general Lye to their Arguments, or their Arguments a Fund of Lyes to their Practiſe? Theſe Men come within the Number of thoſe in the Holy Writ, viz. *who love and make a Lye*, for it is not with their Words only, but with their whole Series of Action, that they confirm and make a LYE.

With what Face can ſuch a Man ſtand out and curſe the *Mercator* for ſaying, we ſend great Quantities of Goods to France, when he is one of the Men that ſends them?

To illuſtrate this with an Example or two of the Integrity and Probity of theſe Men, a certain Merchant who will know his own Picture when he ſees this *Mercator*, and who will wear the Coat becauſe it fits him ſo well, had the confounded Impudence, for the baſe principled Wretch deſerves no better a Word, to affirm that we had nothing of Trade to Spain; that there had not been a thouſand Pounds of Woollen-Manufactures ſent to Spain for ſix Weeks paſt; that there was no Market, no Sale, no demand for any Goods, for the French ſupply'd all the Markets in Spain; and yet the very ſame Merchant not five Days before had ſhipped 4000 *l.* worth of Woollen-Manufactures to Spain in his own Name, and moſt of it, if not all upon his own Account.

What can ſuch a Man Mortgage his Honour, Faith and Conſcience for, thus in ſuch a Caſe? Is it not to carry on a Party, a wretched quarrel

rel of Parties; which cannot be ſupported but by the help of ſuch abominable Breaches upon Principle, and without ſetting Conſcience and Heaven at defiance?

We know the Trade, and we know the Men, we know they ſhip Goods for France and Spain both, and thereby with one Hand pull down the Lye and the Forgery which they build with the other; If the French Trade is ſo inconſiderable to our Deſtruction to the ruin of the Kingdom, why do they Embark in it? Why Encourage it? If the French take off none of our Goods, why then are great Quantities of thoſe Manufactures ſent thither by theſe very Men? Surely the Trade is wonderfully alter'd, or what theſe Men ſay to us cannot be true.

This is the Foundation which theſe Men build upon who Oppoſe the Commerce with France, and in this manner they act; contradicting, by their own practice, what they Dictate to their Scribblers to put upon the World.

What then is to be done with ſuch Men? Argument is in vain, they are Proof againſt Demonſtration; Our buſineſs is not to attempt to Silence them or Convince them; the laſt indeed may be done, but the firſt is impoſſible; the *Mercator*'s Work is to expoſe their Knavery, in order to Convince other People.

Their Knavery then cannot be better expoſed than in theſe Particulars.

1. They affirm, that the French make our Woollen Manufactures ſufficient in Quantity to ſupply themſelves and all the World; and yet ſome of the very Men that ſay ſo are every Day ſending great Quantities of our Goods to all thoſe Ports where they pretend the French carry away the Trade.

2. They pretend, the French want none of our Goods, have ſufficient of their own, and will not take our Goods if we ſend them; and yet at the ſame time theſe Men, the very Men who we know talk this very Language, are every Week, nay, almoſt every Day ſending of Woollen Goods to France, and that in great Quantities, and we know they ſell them at a great Price.

3. They pretend, that if the Duties in France were abated, the Conſumption of our Manufactures would not Encreaſe; and yet they ſee, that notwithſtanding the extravagant Duties of 70 per Cent. in France upon our Goods, yet great Quantities are demanded there. What they would be if thoſe Duties were at 10 per Cent. they may ſay, if they know how.

4. They pretend, that the French cut us out of the Trade in other Countries by Underſelling us; and yet when we prove that great Quantities of our Goods are carryed to Marſeilles, they anſwer, that the French Tranſport them again, which muſt be Nonſence ſo much as to ſuppoſe, if they had any of their own.

5. They alledge, that the French will not take our Goods, and then would not have us ſend any to try; they applaud the French Manufactures, and would not have ours come into France to ſuppreſs and ſupplant them.

6. They exclaim at the French Trade, and yet turn Owlers, and ſend them our Wooll to aſſiſt them in it.

Theſe are the Champions for Commerce; they talk loudly of *Preſerving our Commerce*, but own, that they are willing the Dutch ſhould carry our Goods to France; by which our own Shipping muſt lie by Unemployed.

It is an endleſs Task to ſum up all the ridiculous and abſurd Things that theſe Men advance to the World, to perſwade our People to Oppoſe the French Trade; the like Contradictions to which were hardly ever ſeen in the World. The *Mercator* ſhall give an Abridgment of more of them in the next Paper. Mean time, ſee what a Trade to France we are carrying on every Day, while, at the ſame time, we rail at in Print.

From the Cuſtom-Houſe.

Exported to France *in Three Days*, May 19, 20, 21.

* 30	Spaniſh Cloths
10	Yorkſhire Cloths
17	Stuffs
12 lb.	Silk Hoſe
1 dozen	Woaſted Hoſe
393 lb.	Haberdaſhery
24 dozen	Calve-skins
34000	Lanthorn Leaves
2500	Glaſs Bottles
9 dozen	Gartering
684 lb.	Wrought Iron
128 lb.	Wrought Braſs
20 lb.	Shooes
	Certain Apparel
112 lb.	Cotton Wooll
222 lb.	Cotton Yarn
* 845	Callicoes and Muſlins
4 Ton 16 C.	Block Tin
67 Fodder 10 C.	Lead
1 Ton 3 C.	Brimſtone
22500	Single Plates
16 C.	Elephants Teeth
104976 lb.	Virginia Tobacco

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